



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

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In the CVC's Exhibition Hall, electricians work on the lighting elements in the ceiling of a Virtual House Theater. The theater will accommodate approximately 25-30 people and feature a continually looping film about the House of Representatives. Likewise, the Senate Virtual Theater will feature a Senate oriented film. Both theaters will include live feeds into the House and Senate Chambers when Congress is in session.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 12/18/06 through 12/22/06

CVC and East Front Plaza:

- In the Great Hall, workers continue installing finish elements including bronze grills over air supply openings, and bronze hand rails along the east side staircases. Workers have completed placing concrete in the water fountains at the base of the Great Hall stairs on the east side of the hall and are preparing to waterproof the concrete this week.
- Stone installation has been completed at the lower level and stairs of the North Orientation Theater and continues in the South Theater. Millwork wall panel installation continues in both theaters.
- Masons continue setting stone at the upper level lobby just outside the North Orientation Theater.
- In the Exhibition Hall, masons have completed setting marble to the east side of the south Wall of Aspirations. The steel framework for the north wall is nearly complete and crews are expected to begin installing marble later this week. Work on the ceiling of the virtual House Theater continues with the installation of lighting elements in the ceiling soffits.
- Drywall installation continues at the Rotunda level in the East Front of the Capitol and will begin late this week in the ceiling of the transition zone the runs through the Carriageway below the East Front center steps
- Masons continue to set stone to the exterior walls and columns along the CVC entrance zone.
- Stone crews continue setting pavers on the concrete slabs of the tree-lined stepped entrance walkway that slopes down from First Street to the north side CVC entrance.
- Crews continue to assemble formwork in the water fountain feature around the north skylight above the Great Hall.

- Plaster work continues on the ceiling bulkheads in the south side CVC screening entrance and in the large vestibule zone just west of the screening zones.
- Historic preservation contractors continue work to restoration the historic lanterns (see photo below) and seatwalls.



A worker applies grout to a joint between two of the granite blocks that make up one of six historic lanterns on the East Front Plaza.

Next Week – 12/25/06 – 12/29/06

CVC and East Front Plaza Work

- Ceiling work will continue in the East Front transition zone with the installation of drywall above the main stairs and escalator paths.
- In the Great Hall, workers are expected to apply a waterproofing membrane on the water fountain features and begin installing finish stone by late next week.
- Floor stone installation will continue in the upper level west lobby outside of the North Orientation Theater.
- Crews will continue assembling formwork for concrete floor slabs in the Congressional Auditorium.
- Ceiling and bulkhead work will continue in the north CVC entrance zone.
- Installation of kitchen equipment will continue in the Food Service Area.
- In House Expansion Space, crews will continue installing the metal framework for the ceiling of a Committee Hearing Room and prepare the walls for the installation of stone. Close-in inspections will continue in the lower level.
- In the Senate Expansion Space, ceiling close-in inspections will continue in the lower level while crews continue dropping ceiling panels into the ceiling grid of the Senate Recording Studio on the upper level.



The kitchen of the CVC's new dining facility has been cleared and cleaned and is ready to receive kitchen equipment including, stoves, grills, dishwashers, sinks and other food service elements.

More photos next two pages...

For additional information about the CVC project, contact the project communications officer, Tom Fontana, at tfontana@aec.gov or visit the project web site at www.aec.gov. Be sure to click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link on the homepage.

Clockwise from right: In the CVC Exhibition Hall, masons set a piece of engraved marble to the “Wall of Aspirations”; a mason sets paving stones around one of the Tulip Poplar trees that have been planted along a walkway leading to the CVC entrance; workers install bronze grills in front of an air duct opening in the Great Hall; a circular window, or oculus, has been installed in the CVC roof deck to illuminate a portion of the area below that lies between the CVC’s north and south entrances; a crew places concrete inside a water fountain at the base of the south stair inside the Great Hall.





Clockwise from above: Workers position a curving steel beam into place in a stairwell atrium in Senate Expansion Space; a nearly completed corridor in House Expansion Space; along the face of the CVC's north entrance zone, a mason applies grout between the joint of two blocks of granite. The granite is quarried in Culpeper, Virginia, and is intended to match the perimeter walls around Capitol Square that were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1874; a block of granite is lowered into place near one of two new elevator towers on the East Front Plaza. The elevators will bring people down approximately 18 feet from the Plaza to the CVC entrance level.

